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6 June 1955

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EYES ONLY

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Director/Scientific Intelligence

FROM : Chief, Intelligence Production Staff/SI

SUBJECT : Status of O/SI Research and Production Plan and Recommendations for Future Activity

1. As recommended in the report of the Inspector General and subsequently assigned to me for development, an O/SI Research and Production Program is in an advanced stage of preparation. To date, a statement of "Critical Scientific Intelligence Objectives" and a listing of selected research problems or areas have been approved by the O/SI Intelligence Board. Based on these documents, a list of specific projects which if completed would substantially meet the need for scientific intelligence has been prepared for consideration by the Board. A copy of this listing is attached at Tab A. There are at present 219 specific projects in this listing and it is obvious that reduction to about half this number will be required before feasibility for an Office the size of O/SI is within reach. Nevertheless, a base has been established and those research projects approved by the Board and yourself will constitute the O/SI Research Program, in the first instance for FY-56 and upon further consideration for succeeding years. A suitable production program will be developed subsequent to the approval of the research program.

2. The program, thus far, has been developed objectively without specific reference to the existing O/SI organization. On this basis an analysis of the present listing of specific research projects suggests the following conclusions, among others:

a. there is great variation throughout O/SI on the depth to which intelligence research is planned in applied science (atomic energy, guided missile and electronics intelligence) as compared to the fundamental sciences (chemistry, biology, physics).

b. The Office appears to be preoccupied with end item or technical intelligence to the point where the listing of research projects in basic science intelligence is unimpressive.

c. the divisional proposals, on which the planning group relied, for activities in many fields bear little relationship to the assigned responsibilities now prevailing in the intelligence community.

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3. In an attempt to be realistic in our planning activity, we have assumed that an O/SI Research Program which can not operate is not an acceptable end product of our efforts. As a test of the program's feasibility, we have therefore examined its compatibility with existing facts such as the organization of O/SI. The findings are not encouraging. Of 70 research areas under consideration, 27 are involved in 62 instances of overlapping responsibility within OSI under present assignments. In some areas the situation is tolerable as, for example, in atomic energy intelligence where 12 out of 17 research areas fall clearly within the present mission of the Nuclear Energy Division. At the other extreme, however, is guided missiles intelligence in which only one of the 10 research areas is at present wholly within the mission of the newly organized Guided Missiles Division. For purposes of illustrating the extent of overlapping responsibility now prevalent in OSI, the analysis of the situation has been arranged in tabular form in Tab B.

4. The extensive overlapping in responsibility presages a prolonged period of negotiation which may postpone final acceptance of the research plan indefinitely — unless a more direct course is taken. The obvious alternative is to group OSI components in a manner more responsive to the Office research goals. From a conceptual standpoint such an alignment is not difficult to devise on the basis of major groupings of research functions under the research plan. The listing of research projects shows clearly that OSI's mission can be divided into intelligence on (a) applied science or technology and (b) basic science and scientific resources. A simple grouping therefore consists of the intelligence areas on atomic energy, guided missiles, electronics, medicine and weaponry as representative of applied science on the one hand and, on the other, scientific resources and the basic sciences. Recognizing that inter-agency commitments which can not readily be altered exist in the applied science area, a total of five organizational components is suggested for this area. The remaining activities are combined in a fundamental science component. The effect of such a grouping, in combination with a realistic assignment of personnel and missions, on the problem of overlapping responsibility is shown in Tab C. This table, as that presented in Tab B, resulted from an analysis of the research areas approved by the Board.

5. On the basis of our present findings and with the objective of presenting a useful research plan for implementation, it is recommended that:

a. the present listing of research projects be refined by the special committee of the Board and presented for Board approval without delay.

b. the problem of overlapping responsibility which threatens to vitiate the results of the planning exercise be solved by organizational realignment.

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e. the basis for organizational realignment be a separation of OSI substantive concern into applied sciences (atomic energy, guided missiles, electronics, medicine, weaponry) and fundamental sciences (scientific resources, discipline-by-discipline developments).

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Attachments: 3
(Tabs A-C)

(NOTE: TAB A referred to in this memorandum is considered unduly bulky to forward at this time. It is available upon request.)

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ORIGINAL DOCUMENT MISSING PAGE(S):

ATTACHMENT (A) TAB

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